Legislation for regulation of food products

600. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to converge and modernise the existing laws of food processing and bring out a single statute for regulation of food products;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Group of ministers has been constituted for this purpose; and

(d) if so, when the Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a Modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations by converging and modernizing the existing laws and to bring about a single statute for regulation of food products. This law is expected to take into account the international scenario and modern developments so as to create an enabling environment and promote self-compliance by the food processing industries. Two meetings of the Group of Ministers (GOM) have been held so far.

Maintaining quality of food and drinks

601. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report in June, 2003 that a dead lizard was found in coca-cola's coke bottle in Chennai;

(b) the steps taken by Government to maintain hygiene and quality in fast food and soft drinks that are fast spreading to the rural areas; and

(c) whether Government would bring a legislation to deal with multinational companies that fail to maintain the quality in food and drinks according to guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM): (a) It has come to the notice of Ministry of Food Processing Industries that The Hindu' of 22.6.2003 carried a news item of a consumer complaint regarding a dead lizard found in Coca-cola bottle, in Chennai.

(b) and (c) The hygiene and quality parameters in fast food and soft drinks are maintained as per the provisions laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder the Fruit Products Order, 1955. Steps such as regular inspections and drawing of samples are carried out at regular intervals to ensure compliance with laid down conditions of manufacture and product specifications. Specifications are applicable equally to indian and multinational companies.

Discrimination against Hindi and other Languages in Colleges of DU

†602. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students of Hindi and other languages are being discriminated in the colleges of Delhi University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of the names appearing in cut off lists the students are not being enrolled as they do not have the knowledge of English;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would stop this type of practice against non-English speaking students and would take action against erring persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, admission to various undergraduate courses in the colleges of the University are made strictly on merit and no discrimination is done to the students of Hindi and other languages in the matter of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.